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13 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Advanced Aircraft Systems Missions

1. The following discussion is solely for initiation of discussions of the mission requirements for advanced aircraft systems. It is by no means a definitive statement of requirements.

2. The advanced systems can be broken down into three distinct performance categories, which may well effect the modes of usage and detailed missions.

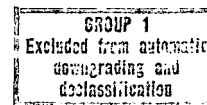
a. High-speed, high altitude, including sub-orbital aerospace vehicles: These will be designed to be of low vulnerability to attack by reducing reaction time allowed to the opposition and over-stressing the performance capabilities of potential attacked devices.

b. High altitude, low speed (e.g., balloons): Low vulnerability is to be accomplished by reduction in detectability. Maneuver may be accomplished by taking advantage of high-altitude winds, etc.

c. Low altitude, quiet operation: Penetration and invulnerability to be accomplished by low altitude operation; normal audio detection reduced by extremely quiet operation. The low altitude would reduce radar capabilities by staying out of normal evaluation ranges. The scanning laser camera is a potential sensor for this system.

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3. Potential Missions:

a. Cold War Applications:

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1. High-speed aircraft, etc. (2a) these systems have potential application against crisis indications targets (e.g., late warning items per [] requirements studies). In addition, potential application exists against small, local hot spots, defended against I and O (e.g., Cuba) for detailed reconnaissance. The system might be targeted against critical Soviet test sites (e.g., Sary Shagan).

2. Balloons: Primary targeting would probably be for detailed reconnaissance of critical Soviet test sites; possibly also for order of battle and deployment reconnaissance of hot spots (e.g., Cuba).

3. Low altitude quiet aircraft: Application includes peripheral reconnaissance and various infiltration requirements.

b. Hot War: Under active war time conditions, the circumstances and usefulness of the systems need be examined. However, in order to rationally examine this aspect, we need to consider the role of Agency assets in hot war circumstances, and also understand the status of military assets of a similar nature. These considerations need to be made with regard to all advanced systems as well as current.

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